



HUMANE SOCIETY  
— of Indianapolis —  
[www.indyhumane.org](http://www.indyhumane.org)

**“I’ve lost my pet. What do I do?!?”  
10 steps to help you find your pet**

**1.) Canvas the neighborhood**, and ask your neighbors and the children in your area if they’ve seen your pet. Ask walkers, cyclists, and motorists in the area where your pet was lost.

**2.) Post LOST signs** at major intersections, busy roads, and where motorists slow down.

Use large fluorescent signs with dark letters that can be seen and read in a few seconds to capture motorists’ attention. E.G. “Lost orange cat, phone #”, brief and simple. A picture helps a lot!

Post smaller flyers at grocery stores, gas stations, vet offices, other businesses nearby, and at shelters, dog parks, grooming shops and dog bakeries. Give complete info & a current picture.

**3.) Contact all local animal shelters** with complete information and pictures. Ask for help placing them on a local website devoted to posting lost and found notices.

**4.) Contact veterinary offices** nearby.

**5.) Place an ad in local papers** and check found notices for several months. Many will post lost & found ads for free, and some people will keep stray animals and try to find their owners for months.

**6.) Visit local shelters** often and ask to check all the animal areas.

**7.) Cats require vigorous search techniques:**

**Outdoor Access cats:** Cats will usually be found near home unless transported out of the area. They could be sick, injured or trapped. Many will seek refuge under a house or deck. If chased away, they could become disoriented or too fearful to return home. They may hide for weeks. Ask neighbors if they’ve brought your cat to a shelter thinking it was stray or feral. Don’t give up hope: many lost cats are found hiding somewhere nearby.

**Indoor-only cats:** This is a much easier cat to find. These kitties don’t usually stray far and are often under bushes, cars or decks, either on their property or close by. Look for hiding places near the home, and place humane traps close to the house.

**For both types of cats:**

- \* Place a humane trap on the property near the house and check often.
- \* Check under decks, houses, bushes, cars, garages, etc. and also check at night with a flashlight and look for the glow of their eyes.
- \* Place flyers and posters as outlined above, and ask friends & family to help.
- \* Check shelters, newspapers and lost/found websites often.

**8.) Post your pet’s info on the internet.** List your pet on Petfinder.com’s lost/found pages, PetHarbor.com, LostandPound.com, TheLostPets.com, and others. Online newspaper classifieds and Craigslist.org help, too. Pictures are invaluable.

**9.) Check with rescue groups, and especially breed-rescue groups** if the animal is purebred.

**10.) Don’t give up hope!** Pets have been reunited with their families weeks, months and even years after becoming lost.